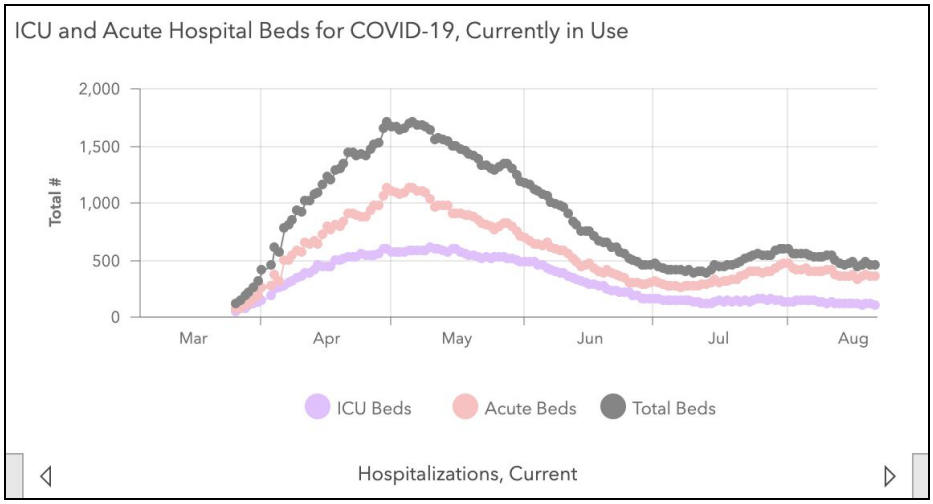
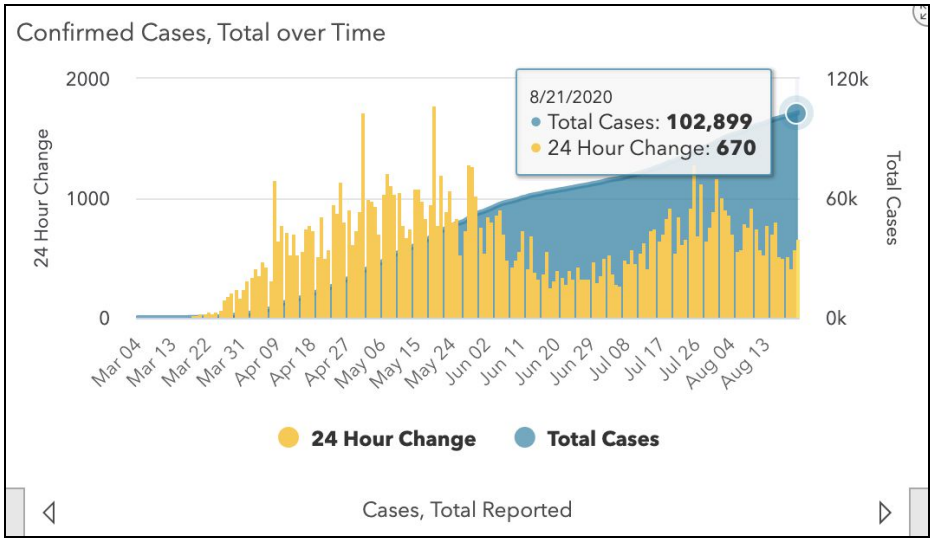
Coronavirus Update: August 21st
Congressman David Trone (MD-06)

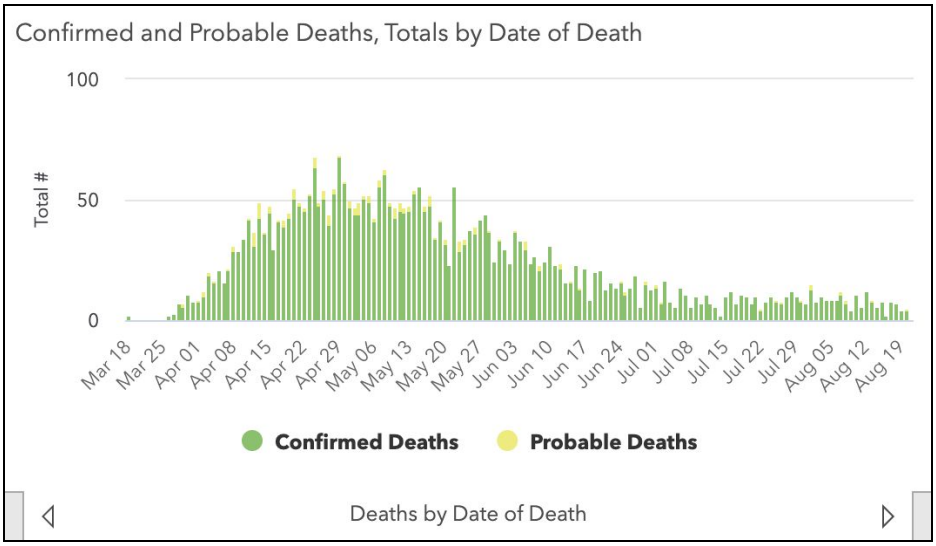
Stats @ August 21st, 3:00 pm

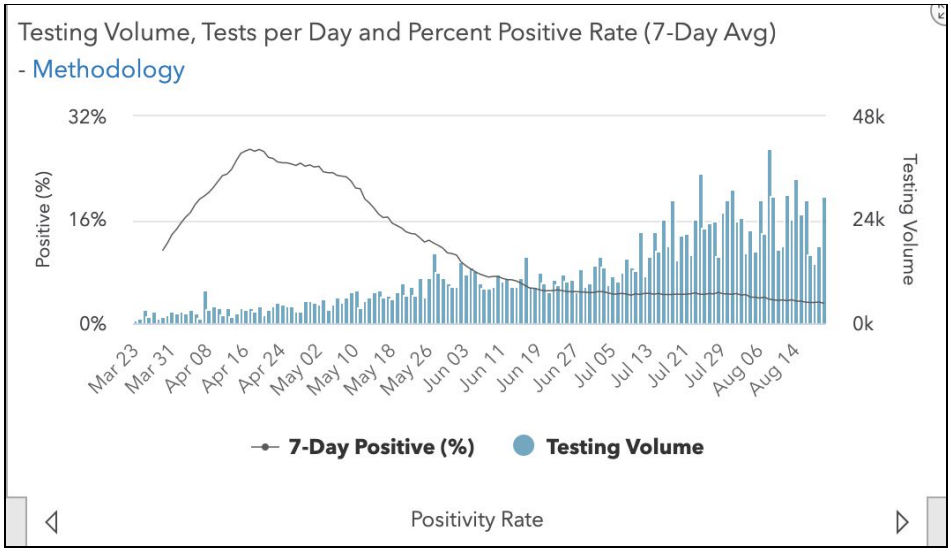
Charts are sourced from the Maryland coronavirus website.

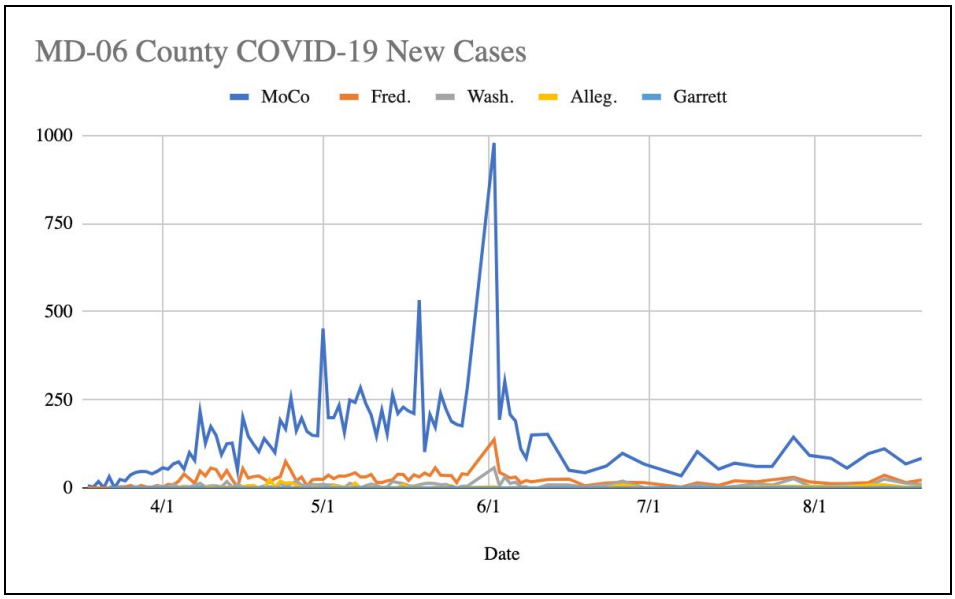
MARYLAND DATA











Total cases reported: MoCo 19,325, Fred 3,309, Wash 1,192, Alleg 365, Garrett 61. MD cases: 102,899; MD deaths: 3,536. As of 3:00 pm on August 21st, the U.S. had recorded 5,595,361 confirmed cases and 174,647 deaths due to coronavirus. (JHU)

Federal News

- COVID-19 deaths in the US should start dropping around parts of the country by next week, the Director of the CDC said, as Americans stick to mitigation efforts that help curb the spread of the virus. So far, more than 5.5 million Americans have been infected and at least 174,255 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. The country's seven-day average for daily deaths has topped 1,000 for at least 24 days in a row. (CNN)
- States across the US are now seeing a decline in COVID-19 cases, according to Adm. Brett Giroir, though he warned things could quickly change again if Americans aren't careful. Trends are now "going in the right direction," said Adm. Giroir, the Trump administration physician overseeing US coronavirus testing, attributing the decline in part to safety protocols such as masks and social distancing. (CNN)

- The CDC is working "to build a revolutionary new data system" for COVID-19 hospital data collection that the CDC will run upon completion, according to Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Birx's comments this week come a month after the Trump administration mandated that hospitals sidestep the agency and send critical information about COVID-19 hospitalizations and equipment to a different federal database managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC. (NPR)

Maryland Updates

- Maryland counted 414 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, the lowest number of new daily cases since July 6. It's also the fourth straight day the state has reported fewer than 600 new cases, the longest streak since a month-long stretch from June 14 to July 11. The state now has confirmed 101,649 infections of COVID-19. The two-week average of newly reported cases declined to 659, down 26% since Aug. 3 and the lowest level since July 21. (Baltimore Sun)
- On Friday, Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland's statewide COVID-19 positivity rate has reached a new all-time low of 3.08%, as ICU levels declined slightly to 102—a decrease of 5 in the last 24 hours. Over the last several weeks, state health officials have focused on addressing rising infection rates among young people. The positivity rate among Marylanders under 35 has declined by 47.3% since July 23, to 3.58%. The positivity rate among Marylanders 35 and older is 2.76%.(Office of Gov. Larry Hogan)

District Updates

- Montgomery County
    a. AdvaGenix, the Rockville lab that was supplying and processing COVID-19 tests for the county's free sites, says the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) incorrectly said their laboratory permit was suspended. Last Friday the MDH ordered AdvaGenix to stop processing COVID-19 tests.
    b. Montgomery County will resume offering COVID-19 testing beginning Thursday, although it will not use AdvaGenix of Rockville as a supplier or to analyze test results.
- Frederick County
    a. The positivity rate in Frederick County fell by .08% to 1.98%. That's the fifth best in the state among the 24 jurisdictions. On Aug. 8, the positivity rate in the county fell to an all-time low of 1.29%, which was the best in the state at the time.
- Washington County
    a. Washington County Public School employees have been told that despite the upheaval caused by COVID-19, they will have jobs through Thanksgiving. This includes bus drivers and cafeteria workers, some of whom have found their jobs sidelined because of distance learning. The school district has not set a date for when or if students will return to the classrooms.
    b. Washington County Public School teachers will have the option to virtually teach in the classroom or from home. The Washington County Board of Education voted during a teleconference meeting Tuesday night to let teachers decide how they want to teach their students.
- Allegany County
    a. Frostburg State University announced Thursday that of the 2,673 students and employees who completed pre-semester, non-symptomatic COVID-19 testing from Aug. 11 to 15, 12 tested positive. Testing was done in person at the Cordts PE Center, or people could upload verified results to the university portal.
- Garrett County

a. Four new COVID-19 cases were reported to the Garrett County Health Department in the last week, bringing the county's total to 58 since March. The new cases include a child under the age of 10 who displayed symptoms and was isolating at home.